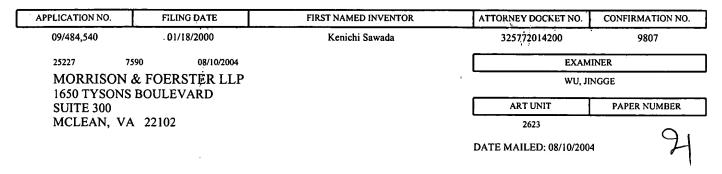


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The Reply Brief and the request of oral hearing are acknowledged